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A tortoise snack

Opal and Iris offer Koopa the red-footed tortoise dandelion flowers at the Minden Cultural Centre's Season opening celebration on Saturday. Koopa is a team member of Browning Reptiles. See more photos on page 3.
/THOMAS SMITH Staff



Preparations underway to ensure healthy summer rural expo

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Public health officials are gearing up for the mass gathering of people to be lured this summer by the International Plowing Match

and Rural Expo.

Just another of the summer preparations required of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Public Health Unit.

“I know it’s May and we’re getting into the warmer weather and there’s quite a number of additional activities that the health

units takes on during the summer,” said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the unit’s medical officer of health, during the board’s May 16 meeting.

Richard Ovcharovich, the unit’s environmental health manager, said the plowing match is the largest event of its kind in North America. It attracts as many as 70,000 people

over the five day celebration of agriculture and rural living.

This year, Lindsay is hosting the annual event from Oct. 1 to 5.

Ovcharovich said such mass gathering

see **PLOWING** page 4



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Mary and Shannon Hulme stand proudly by their Porch Doctor work vehicle. The Hulmes started their business in 2017 and are committed to beautifying the Highlands. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Porch Doctor seals the deal in Highlands

by THOMAS SMITH
Editor

“We do deck, dock, and boat house coatings on plywood and concrete coatings on porches. That’s where the name Porch Doctor came from,” said Shannon Hulme, director of project services for Porch Doctor.

“I moved to Canada seven years ago because of Shannon,” said Mary Hulme, director of sales and marketing. A New York native, Hulme met Shannon when doing a Spartan race on a mountain in Quebec. Shannon Hulme first came to the Highlands around 2015 when he came to work on the MNRF building at Stanhope Airport.

“We fell in love with the area,” said Shannon Hulme. Two years after owning a rental property in the area, Shannon and Mary Hulme moved to Haliburton County permanently.

Shannon Hulme’s children and father help out with the family business when available.

“We have no outside employees. Our work is very particular in that you can’t make a mess. To find somebody that is going to take care and to keep things clean is tricky. We have had employees in the past, but it is more of a headache,” said Shannon Hulme.

After working as a labourer and then a carpenter, Shannon Hulme became a clerk of works.

“You make sure that you are constructing properly as an extra pair of eyes for the owner,” said Shannon Hulme. “For over 13 years, I oversaw court houses, OPP facilities, three or four courthouses, and three MNR buildings in Sudbury, North Bay and Haliburton.”

“For those 13 years, I wasn’t on the tools, I was just watching people. I really missed being active and accomplishing something in my day,” said Shannon Hulme. “We found this product and it’s been perfect so far.”

The Porch Doctor began their 2024 season this past week.

“For our process, we need three days of good weather. Usually, it starts between April and May. This year’s been a little questionable because we haven’t had many days of good weather in a row,” said Shannon Hulme. “Rain is the

biggest problem.”

“The product is also building code approved,” said Mary Hulme. “One of the only building code approved waterproof products.”

Porch Doctor exclusively uses Flexstone Coatings for sealing decks, boat houses, docks, and porches.

“It’s a urethane product. It’s all seamless. Because it is liquid applied, there are no joints,” said Shannon Hulme.

“Our biggest competitor up here has seams, and a lot of our work is fixing their work,” said Mary Hulme.

“What the product really is best at doing is if you have a second story deck, we waterproof that and then there can be living space below,” said Shannon Hulme. “The traditional way that they do that is they’ll put down a traditional roofing membrane and build a deck on top. Our application is a one step process.”

The Hulmes hope to spread the word about Flexstone products and the value that they add to people’s home, deck, dock, or boathouse.

“For the most part, the product is not widely used in Ontario. It comes from B.C.. For the last five years since we started, we have had the highest google reviews and took on the most work,” said Shannon Hulme. “It is a complicated process to install. Basically, you need to be qualified and experienced in it and it is a very messy process, so it is less desirable.”

“Literally it will dry in 10 minutes, so you have to move fast,” said Mary Hulme. “You really have to be trained.”

“We have developed processes that are unique to us,” said Shannon Hulme. “That is how my father and I were able to do 7,000 square foot apartment buildings in a few weeks. We have spent a lot of time refining the process and doing as best as we can and as quickly as we can with quality results.”

“The great thing about our product is it comes with basically a 20-year warranty,” said Shannon Hulme. “After 10 years, we come out and make sure everything is good. Maybe give it another application of clear coat, you almost get a 20-year warranty right off the hop. You don’t get that in this industry.” “It is a high-end product meant to last a lifetime. It will last 30 to 40 years if well maintained.”

“We have a wide range of colour options that will suit anybody’s project,” said Shannon Hulme. “There are also different textures.” “It is also very easy to change the colour.”

Porch Doctor consider themselves to be the most active installers in Ontario. By providing estimates remotely, they have operated their business throughout the province. Their current focus is on cottages, homes, and boathouses in Haliburton County.

“There is no other product that is up here thawt is a seamless, waterproof coating for decks, roofs, or boat houses,” said Shannon Hulme. “We really want to get into boat houses because you have to have a roof on it, and you really want it to be beautiful. We are the perfect option for that.”

Once people can see it, touch it, feel it, get a sense of what it is like, people are going to say “finally!” said Mary Hulme.

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Minden Hills Cultural Centre's season opener was a huge success! Games, food, and fun was had by all families that visited. Browning Reptiles, owned and operated by Sarah Brown and Ken Downing was a massive hit with the kids. /THOMAS SMITH Staff



Tyson and Oliver gained volunteer hours for school.



Mary Hamilton, Elli Welch and Betty Mark donned Victorian outfits to serve goodies and tea at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us for the first of our Community Heritage Series: A Century of Local Healthcare by Larry Ferguson explores the history of regional health services. The talk will be held at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 23 at 5:00 PM. Admission is by donation. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-05-23-1700-A-Century-of-Local-Healthcare-presentation-by-Larry>
- Connection and Response, an exhibit by conceptual artist Bruce Cull, will be on display until June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is by donation. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull>.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL, IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- May 30 – Regular Council Meeting
- June 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS CELEBRATES CANADA DAY

The Township of Minden Hills will be celebrating Canada Day Monday July 1, 2024! We are currently looking for vendors to showcase their products, cause, or services for our event! Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2024. To reserve your spot please email our Recreation Coordinator, Sarah Purdy at spurdy@mindenhills.ca.

NO DAYTIME BURNING

No daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st in any year as it is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM (daytime burning). No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.



CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT ON JUNE 8TH

On June 8, 2024 at the Scotch Line Landfill from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. there will be a Confidential Paper Shredding event. All documents are shredded on site. Please bring a non-perishable food item or toiletry item to be donated to the Minden Community Food Centre.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law to the schedules noted below:

- Schedule A Classes of Permits and Fees for Building
- Schedule G Cemetery
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule L Local Community Insurance Services
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees

The proposed changes to the noted schedules will be posted on the Township website www.mindenhills.ca. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Dated this 10th day of May, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Bull, Clerk, 705-286-1260 Ext 515 E: vbull@mindenhills.ca

REPORTING ISSUES INCLUDING TOWNSHIP ROAD CONDITIONS / MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Reporting issues for Township road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.



Market returns

Downtown Minden was packed this weekend with hungry visitors to the Minden Farmers' Market. The Minden Farmers' Market takes place every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. /THOMAS SMITH Staff



FoRT presents Around the World on Bike Paths

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) are extending a welcome to the community to attend their yearly social, featuring an exciting new program for travel enthusiasts.

On Thursday, May 23, join FoRT in the Haliburton Legion Club Room from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for Around the World on Bike Paths.

"Friends of the Rail Trail has a social every year, and they always have something educational and informative, but are accessible to everyone and give us an opportunity to visit with everyone," said Pamela Marsales, FoRT chair.

Marsales said the social will be a combination of videos, photos, and presentations by people eager to share their experiences.

"For this one, we'll look at at least half a dozen bike trail networks around the world. They're all different, so there's something for everyone," Marsales said. "These paths can go from an easy, flat rail trail to mountain bike paths in Tasmania, and everything in between."

The social will also feature a cash bar and door prizes, and admission is by donation. To reserve attendance, call or text 705-457-4767.

Sunday Rambles

The final Sunday Ramble of the season will be on Sunday, May 26 beginning at the trail head of the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

"This one's a special one. We'll be walking into the village



The audience from FoRT's Social last year also at the Haliburton Legion Club Room. Spokes & Species 2023 celebrated Ontario bike trails, while this event will explore all kinds of international bike paths. /Photo submitted

with guest Jamie Stuckless, project manager for the Active Pathways Network. So, we'll be talking about how the paths feel comfortable, their safety, and more."

Meet at 7286 Gelert Rd. at 11 a.m. on Sunday to participate.

"This is free and welcomes all ages, and friendly dogs," Marsales said.

For more information about FoRT, visit fortprojects.ca.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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3	1	5	7	6	8	2	4	9
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Plowing comp strains Health unit

from page 1

events require collaboration and coordination between public health officials and external stakeholders to mitigate the possibility of injuries and illnesses.

Concentrated crowds places additional stressors on the public health infrastructure, he said.

"Also an increase in demand for services in case there's any infectious diseases, our surveillance of food and water," Ovcharovich said. "There's going to be a large recreational camp that's going to be right across from the Lindsay (fairgrounds) where the exhibitors are going to be staying."

Large gatherings typically lead to a surge in demand for police, fire, and ambulance services, the acute care system, and public health protection activities.

Abby Tabaco, the unit's emergency management health hazard coordinator, said part of public health's role is more

than participating in planning committee leading up to the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Concerns for water quality and food safety by vendors remain paramount.

John Logel, a board member from Northumberland, asked if the provincial government will help the unit with some extra funding, given the demands on staff time and resources.

"There's no extra funding from the province," Ovcharovich said.

"We submit an annual budget and that annual budget does not necessarily have room to add in for large events like this," Bocking said. "Typically, we can apply annually for one-time funding which is some additional money for unexpected events."

"If we had a large outbreak of something we could submit that and get approvals for that funding."

Public health starts the year in the red

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The region's public health unit has run a deficit so far this year.

But Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit board members heard May 16 that the revenue shortfall is expected to be corrected by the end of the year.

Matthew Vrooman, the health unit's corporate services director, updated the board on its financial picture when it met May 16.

There is a cumulative deficit for the first four months of the fiscal year 2024 that totals \$500,974. The results from current operations show that revenue received was about \$444,920 less than budgeted for the first four months of the fiscal year.

The shortfall in revenue received, coupled with \$67,307 in overspending, resulted in the current deficit. The revenue shortfall is a timing difference and is expected to reverse through the fiscal year.

"I'm happy with the expenses," said John Logel, a board member from Northumberland. "I don't have any concerns with that."

But, regarding the income to the health unit, Logel said there are three things for which all funding for the year has already been received.

"I'm asking have we had the expenses to go along with that?" Logel said.

Vrooman said he will return to the board with the question's answer.

The salary and benefits lines combined for a deficit of \$70,887. But the board expects to see corrections as the excess charges and extra pay period from the previous period flows through the system.

Most of the expenditure line items are trending at budget or above except for computer support, professional development, and equipment, according to the unaudited statement.

The board heard that professional development expenditures are significantly higher due to the timing of payment

for workplace training. Typically, budgeted amounts are spread evenly as monthly expenditures while actual costs are posted as they are incurred.

Total expenditures to date this year sits at 34.27 per cent

of the budgeted amounts for the first four months. For the year to date, the public health unit has received 31.99 per cent of the expected revenue for the first four months of the fiscal year.



Under construction

Melanie Klodt Wong, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Foundation executive director and HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson stand where the new CT scanner will be placed at the Haliburton hospital. Construction crews have been hard at work since March preparing the space equipped with lead walls for radiation protection, an accessible washroom, changing rooms, and control room. The CT scanner will be delivered in June with the mammography unit arriving in the fall. Nelson said 95 per cent of patients requiring a CT scan will be accommodated in Haliburton with the exception of those needing a cardiac scan. "This new equipment will change the lives of so many in the county," Nelson said. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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May 2-4, eh

WHY DO they call it the May 2-4 long weekend, when the holiday isn't on May 24? Because it is too fer-eaking hot! You know summer is right around the corner when you can no longer get a parking spot in downtown Minden on the weekend.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful long weekend. For those who ventured into town on Saturday, you could see how busy Minden becomes when it is rejuvenated in the spring. Between the auction at Second Time Around, the Farmers' Market, and the season opener at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, there was something for everyone to do in Minden this long weekend.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre was bustling with volunteers showing how to play pioneer games and people dressed in Victorian era clothing serving tea. They were also serving those finger sandwiches that you seem to only eat at family get-togethers and funerals (often the same event). I brought my girlfriend up to take part in the festivities this weekend and boy was she impressed. The Farmers' Market supplied us with everything we needed for the week. Meat, vegetables, maple syrup, and even some live tunes to listen to. You'd never catch a musician strumming the afternoon away at the Valu Mart or Foodland, I'll tell you what.

At the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, there were dozens of families out and about in the pioneer village. The biggest draw for the kid was Browning's Reptiles. Which is very understandable as it was also my favourite. There was an adorable red footed tortoise named

Koopa who happily ate a dandelion for two young kids (as seen on the cover). Ken and Sarah from Browning Reptiles were excellent in educating kids about reptiles and their importance to the natural world. Their addition to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre's opening seemed highly successful with the swarms of children that stayed by their booth all day. Well done Browning Reptiles.

Victoria Day is celebrated around May 24 in celebration of the birth of Queen Victoria, who was born on May 24 around 4 a.m.. With legislation passed in 1845, Victoria Day is Canada's longest lasting holiday. Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's

seventh prime minister (and first French) chose the holiday's official name to avoid angering French Canadians with a name including the word "queen" or "empire". Despite a popular petition to change the name to Victoria and First Peoples Day in 2013, the petition did not

get enough traction for any change to happen.

For those that keep up with the Royal Family, perhaps you've seen King Charles III's first ever portrait painted by Jonathan Yeo.

It is rather terrifying.

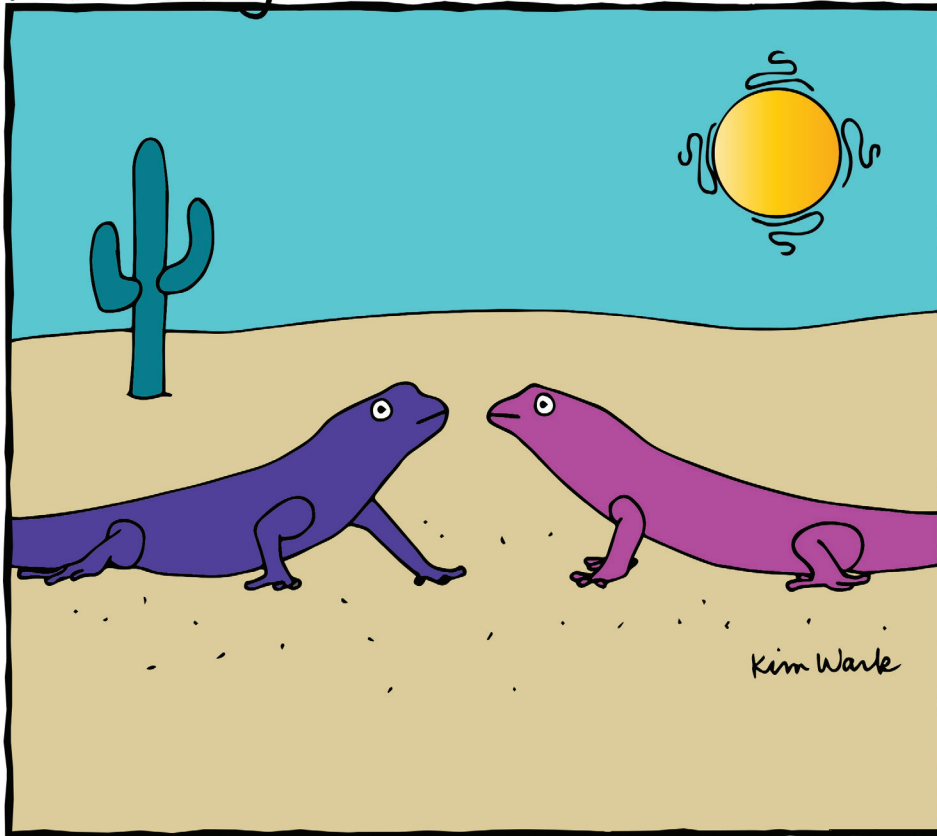
The King appears to be covered in blood and has a butterfly on his shoulder to represent his environmental causes. Perhaps it is an attempt to show the King's gentler side, which is difficult to see when you look like Vigo the Carpathian's twin from Ghostbusters.

I hope you all had a memorable May 2-4 weekend and from the words of Canada's greatest contribution to rock and roll; though it's just a memory, some memories last forever



THOMAS SMITH
Editor

Kwarky



Staring standoff: Day 5.

Me and the misses

THE OTHER day a couple of friends and I decided to get out our rimfire rifles and do a little plinking at tin cans and other elusive targets.

Many people are confused by the word plinking. So, allow me to explain. Plinking is slightly different than firing. Not in reality, but rather from a public relations standpoint.

And this PR work has done wonders for its image too. For instance, no one would be too upset if you sentenced them to stand in front of a plinking squad.

That's because plinking is considered a time-honoured and wholesome activity. More than that, it is actually a lot of fun and a great way to get some inexpensive range time in.

On the practical side, it also helps you hone one of the most important skills a shooter can have. I'm talking about the ability to quickly deploy a plausible repertoire of excuses for missing a target. This often spells the difference between an experienced shooter and a rank amateur.

I won't lie to you. My friends and I were a bit rusty on that part of it at first, mostly because we had spent too much time not missing the targets with our tried-and-true rifles.

But when I pulled out a new rifle to see what it could do, I suddenly found myself in a situation where a multitude of good, semi-plausible excuses were required. And that's when I realized how rusty I was on them.

After my first few shots, all I could come up with was, "I guess my scope is off."

It was more than a little embarrassing.

Later, I partially redeemed myself by suggesting that my rifle had been sighted

in at four different locations simultaneously. And, after that, I slowly regained my poise and started remembering everything I knew.

It didn't take long before I was impressing everyone with my vast expertise on the subject.

"That last one deflected off a deer fly's wing," I said authoritatively, after hitting a target I had not been aiming at.

"What about the one before?" My buddy asked.

"I'm pretty sure that shot hit a particularly dense patch of air which slowed it down and ensured that it hit low," I replied.

Not to brag, but the highlight was when I argued that targets too big and too close are actually harder to hit – and then proved it several times.

"That's why so many people can't hit the broad side of a barn," I beamed.

Before long everyone was following my lead, and some real progress was being made.

I was particularly impressed when my friend, a fellow normally lacking in the need for creative excuses, blamed a change in barometric pressure when he missed a relatively easy shot at a plastic bowling pin. This was particularly inspired since there wasn't a barometer in sight.

His wife still has a lot to learn, however. But you can't blame her. No one ever taught her to miss properly. To that end, my buddy and I decided that next time we would help her develop that fundamental skill, by adjusting the cross hairs of her scope, every time her back is turned.

Hopefully that will help. But, even if it doesn't, you know, we will feel better for trying.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

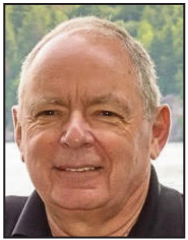
IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Co-existing with Beaver

Beaver numbers were reported down in parts of the province a few years back, likely because of disease or water conditions. Looking around our county this year, they seem to have made a big comeback.

After a low snow winter and early spring drought, the beaver environment outlook was not looking good. Then, above average rainfalls in April and early May changed that, filling ditches and washing out roads in several areas.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

The beaver now have all the water they need. You can see their dams and lodges in flooded areas along the sides of some roads.

Road crews have been busy breaking roadside beaver dams to prevent road flooding. They also have been unplugging culverts stuffed with branches and logs by busy beavers eager to create new ponds.

Beaver and humans are among the only mammals who create and alter our environments to suit our needs. Beaver like to create their own ponds because they cannot live in water that runs rapidly, is shallow or polluted.

Their environment sometimes clashes with ours, however. Their work kills or damages trees, blocks watercourses and causes excessive flooding – all of which can create problems for us.

We often try to solve the problems by destroying beaver habitats and the beaver themselves. When we do, we ignore how much good beaver do for the overall environment.

The trees they cut open the forest canopy, letting in light that helps to grow smaller plants that support insects, birds and other wildlife. Beaver ponds create deeper water for fish and good environments for frogs, turtles, mink and muskrat.

Waterfowl also move into pond areas made more diverse by beaver. These become safe areas for nesting and raising chicks. Black ducks are said to depend on beaver ponds for 86 per cent of their nesting habitat.

Beaver are a keystone species providing biodiversity important to our world. We need them and must find ways of living with each other in spite of how our environments sometimes clash.

Canadians do a fairly good job of co-existing with beaver. We should because they are Canada's national symbol, having contributed much to the building of the country we have today.

Europeans settled Canada in hopes of getting rich from beaver fur.

Back in the early 1600s there were no umbrellas or waterproof clothes so European beaver were trapped for their fur, which is long, coarse and waterproofed with oils from their bodies. Beaver hats, being soft yet waterproof, became wildly popular.

Beaver were trapped to extinction in parts of Europe so the hunt moved to Canada which had an estimated beaver population of 400 million. That figure did not stand for long. Hudson Bay Company's records show that more than 4.7 million Canadian beaver pelts reached British auction houses between 1769 and 1868. And these figures don't include pelts judged sub-standard and discarded.

By the late 1800s, Ontario beaver had been trapped to near extinction.

Beaver populations now are reasonably well protected by government hunting and trapping regulations. But some landowners consider them damaging pests and are allowed to eliminate them and their habitat when damage can be proven.

Killing or relocating the animals and destroying their dams and lodges seldom has provided long-term solutions to beaver problems. New beaver move in and begin rebuilding.

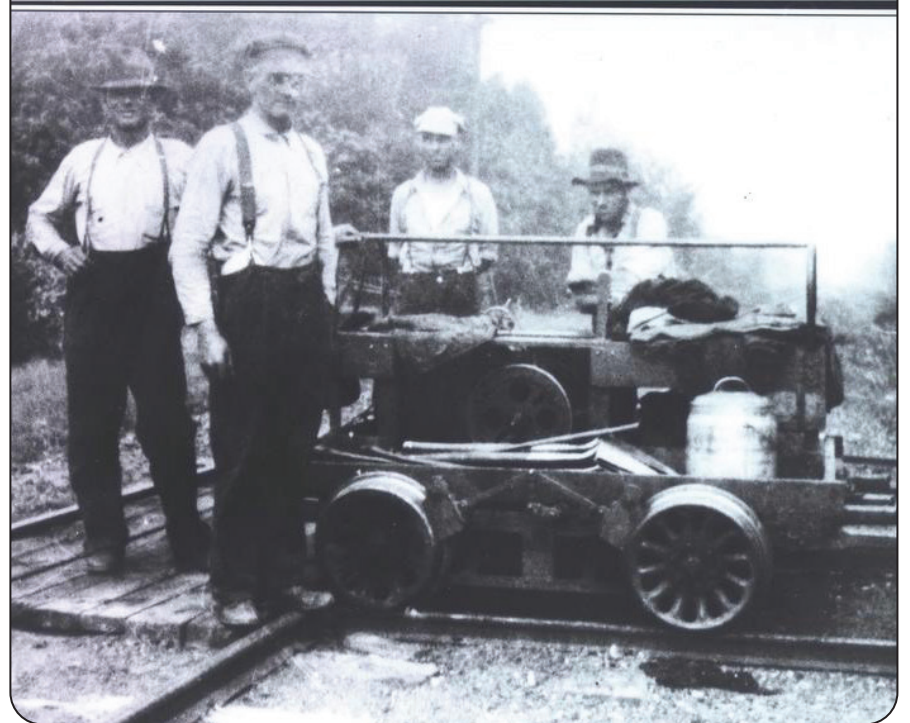
They have been doing that for millions of years. In fact, ancestors of modern beaver were creating dams and building homes long before humans arrived and began changing things to suit themselves.

Today there are organized groups that encourage human-beaver co-existence as an important part of any beaver management plans. They say installing protective culvert cones and pond leveling systems, plus wrapping tree lower areas with wire, are some ways of allowing beaver to exist without creating property damage.

Glynnis Hood, Alberta environmental biology and ecology professor, writes in her book *The Beaver Manifesto*:

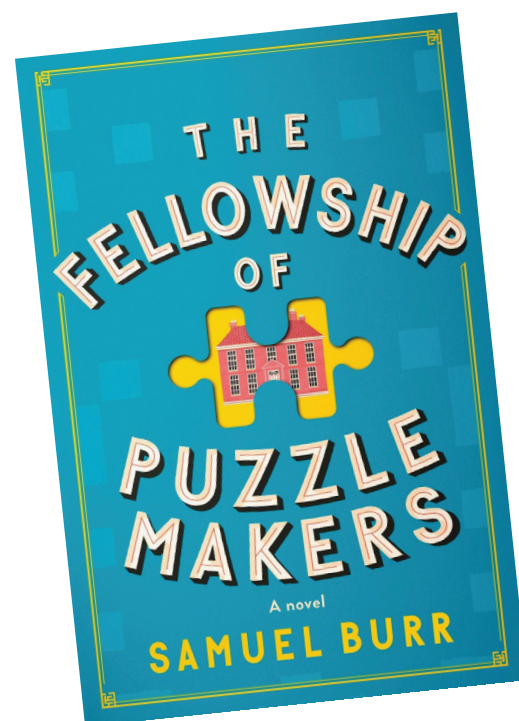
"We need water, and where there's beavers, there's water. Beavers help to recharge groundwater by creating these flooded areas, which then increase groundwater supply. They also dramatically increase surface water supply; and some studies show that the wetlands they help create mitigate forest fires."

Minden Memories



The crew here played a critical role in tending to maintenance and upgrading along the tracks of the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa (I.B.&O.) Railway. /Photo courtesy of Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week



Clayton might be twenty-six years old, but he dresses like your grandpa and drinks sherry like your aunt. Abandoned at birth on the steps of the Fellowship of Puzzlemakers, he now finds himself among the last survivors of a fading institution.

When the main maternal presence in Clayton's life passes away, she bestows her final puzzle on him: a promise to reveal the mystery of his parentage and prepare him for life beyond the walls of the commune. As Clay begins to unpick the clues, he uncovers something even the Fellowship have never been able to solve—and it's a secret that has the potential to change everything.

The *Fellowship of Puzzlemakers* by Samuel Burr is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

Restoring universities to the original mission

About a month from now, hundreds of thousands of students in cap and gown will attend graduation ceremonies on university campuses across Canada.

The students will graduate with a lot of knowledge regarding topics such as philosophy, sociology and political science.

The one topic they won't have explored, however, might be the most important one of all – and that's the question of what constitutes an ideal society.

The Greek philosopher Plato founded the Academy around 2,400 years ago, regarded by many as the first university in the West. At the top of the curriculum at Plato's Academy was the subject of what constitutes an ideal society.

Plato's ideal state included features such as justice, harmony and the greater good of society.

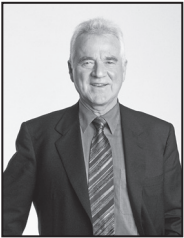
But what about our society? What do we believe are the essential building blocks for creating a more civilized society, one

that brings the greatest amount of freedom, peace and prosperity to its citizens?

Universities are the ideal place to explore these sorts of issues. After all, advancing knowledge and exploring new ideas are a fundamental part of a university's DNA.

Over the years, I've had dealings with many universities around the world. I've funded research centres related to entrepreneurship and technological innovation and given guest lectures on campuses in Canada, the US and Europe.

But until recently, it never occurred to me to consider what was the overriding purpose of a university. In conceiving and drafting the framework of an ideal society, universities should look at all aspects – everything from the arts and sports to business and medicine. They should also consider the ideal structure of government – one that ensures individual liberty and places certain checks on the power of elected officials.



FRANK STRONACH
Principles

One of the ways we currently do that is through our charter of democratic rights and freedoms. But what about other rights, including, most importantly, economic rights? Why has no society ever enshrined an economic charter of rights, and what should those rights be?

My belief is that economic charters of rights will help create economic democracies, and economic democracies – where the greatest number of people enjoy the greatest amount of wealth – are the foundation for democracy itself. I also believe that an economic charter of rights would be one of the cornerstones of any ideal society.

The composition of an ideal society isn't just something for ancient philosophers to ponder. It's a noble quest that we should likewise pursue – and our universities should be leading the way.

Universities can get the ball rolling by inviting some of the world's best minds and accomplished people to talk about the framework necessary for building an ideal society. They should convene symposia and open forums and begin mapping out a blueprint for what that society would look

like and what we need to construct it. And they should create new faculties solely dedicated to this topic.

That doesn't mean throwing out many of the features that have made our society a magnet for people from around the world. Instead, it's a chance to make our society greater yet – to add new elements that would enrich the lives of its citizens while shoring up many of the shortcomings that are currently holding us back.

The ancient Greeks thought the creation of an ideal society was a noble pursuit and ended up building one of the greatest civilizations the world has ever seen.

We should also take up the same challenge. A society that stops striving for greatness is a decaying society.

To learn more about how an economic charter could improve our society, contact info@economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio
Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights (www.economiccharter.ca).

HHSS has got some talent

Dozens of performers presented their talents at the Hal High's Got Talent Open House on May 8. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



MC trying to cartwheel.



Hear ye, hear ye

Snowflake Meadow's first annual Magical Festival Fundraiser was a huge success. Volunteers and guests had an amazing day of petting animals, eating good food, learning about turtles from the Turtle Guardians, riding ponies and petting puppies. Minden is very lucky to have this festival become an annual tradition. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



Fathering

HMM, FATHERING as a verb is rarely used. More common is 'fathered', which usually refers to a singular act tracked by traces of DNA in an offspring. The whole idea of fathering seems to have disappeared into the maw of patriarchy, fatherhood writ large, defined as 'rule of the father'. Patriarchy is a noun, a thing that is. But also a thing that operates at every level of our society, and of many others – I will say, to the disadvantage of us all.

According to a CNN article by Eliza Anyangwe and Melissa Mahtani, part of a series on gender inequality, the movie *Barbie* (re?) introduced the concept of patriarchy into American consciousness, when Ken tries to import the ways of the outside world into Barbieland. (If it's true that patriarchy is an alien construct, it's a stunning indictment of how we educate children! But better pale and pink than not at all.)

I am not alone in thinking that patriarchy disadvantages men as much, maybe more, certainly differently than it disadvantages women. In her 2004 book, *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity and Love*, Black feminist author bell hook wrote 'The first act of violence that patriarchy demands of males is not violence toward women. Instead, patriarchy demands of all males that they engage in acts of psychic self-mutilation, that they kill off the emotional parts of themselves.'

So fathering, the verb, is best done in

relationship, which inevitably involves emotions. That poses a problem. Let's explore how we can end-run patriarchy. It can be done. In fact, matriarchal or matrilineal societies are thought to have been common, perhaps predominant, in pre-history, and

exist at present in 160 known cultures (the CNN article). The difference is not that matriarchy is 'rule of the mother', the opposite of patriarchy, but rather is characterized by equal but differentiated areas of dominance. In researching a play, I dipped into a study of relatively modern Mohawk/Iroquois/Haudenosaunee culture, the late 1800s and early 1900s before colonialism

brought them to their knees, and learned how they shared authority. Women managed the land, inheritance was matrilineal, and men were warriors.

Matriarchy includes men and boys. There are many oases of matriarchy that exist in the desert of patriarchy. They require, as do oases, tapping into a well-spring of subterranean energy. How do we find that subterranean energy? I don't think there's a science to this. Knowledge, yes; the certainty of science, no. Partly because science is the domain of patriarchy. But also because being a woman requires the embracing of uncertainty. Procreation or its prevention involves a lot of uncertainty – when will ovulation occur? When/will conception occur? Who/what is it that is growing within? All that before mothering itself takes over, an uncertainty of another order.



FAY MARTIN

Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

The wellspring of matriarchal knowledge is subterranean also because where patriarchy rules, female knowing is dangerous and will be suppressed or, when it surfaces, punished. Witch-burning is probably the most colorful example, but by no means the only one. Why this negativity? There are many theories.

One is that men resent that women have the power to bring the world to its end by refusing to have children. Or perhaps, more personally, that they bring a man's lineage to an end by refusing to have his children. (Henry VIII? Incels?) Or that they will cuckold him, allow another man to lay his egg in her nest (as cuckoos do) and trick him into mistaking another man's child for his own. This anxiety is based on the fact that women, not men, know for sure who the father of their child is (except, of course, for gang rape, which perhaps explains its persevering popularity as a war crime.)

And lest we think this war of the womb is a thing of Shakespearian times, when it was believed that women could constrict their

womb to strangle the fetus, let us consider the battlefield that abortion is and has always been. A battle that is reaching a pitch in the USA at the moment as the dominoes that depended on *Roe v Wade* are falling at a breath-taking pace. A woman's right to not have a child, largely independent of who planted that child in her body, under what circumstances, is now undermined in much of the country that purports to be the temple of democracy.

It seems 'reasonable' to me in this patriarchal context that women who do have children are taxed with assuming primary responsibility for them, including for addressing the social conditions far beyond their control that undermine raising healthy and well-balanced children. If having children is a life style choice, then choosers should be payers. Or so the reasoning seems to go.

Parenting seems an alligator-studded morass. Men might be well advised to steer clear. Which is, perhaps, the ultimate price that men pay for patriarchy.

We're taking names

G.H.H.S. are looking for Descendants of the Peter Robinson Irish Settlers who arrived in Canada in 1825. It is the 200th anniversary in 2025. We would like any families who are descendants of these settlers that live in Trent Lakes, Kinmount and Haliburton area to please contact us. As many of the family's moved up this way. The Greater Harvey Historical Society of Trent Lakes will be involved in some of the celebrations for this

amazing Anniversary so Please contact us. We will be posting the events as the information becomes available. We will be at Heritage Day in Buckhorn on June 15, and Kinmount Fair on Aug. 30 to Sept. 1. We will have information available for you then. ghhs738@gmail.com.

Submitted

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**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

Home and Cottage Show welcomes 27 new vendors

by VIVIAN COLLINGS
Times Staff

The tradition lives on; the longest-running home show in Ontario will be back for its 45th year.

The Haliburton Home and Cottage Show will feature 130 vendors with 27 new ones added to the list.

"The show is certainly gaining in popularity, and the reason we know that is we have a waiting list for vendors. We've been sold out since March 31, so the support has been great, both from local vendors," said Andy Glecoff, Haliburton Home and Cottage Show co-manager.

The show runs from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Haliburton Curling Club.

For the first time, the show will offer a shuttle service using Haliburton Bus Lines to bring attendees from the parking lot at the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team building and from downtown Haliburton at the Welcome Centre.

"The shuttle will run every 15 minutes, so no one's going to have to wait long," Glecoff said. "Parking has always been an obstacle, especially with so many people coming out every year. We're excited to offer this service."

The shuttle service will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Also new this year is a lineup of speakers presenting in the lounge of the Curling Club.

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Monika Melichar from Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary will speak followed by local real estate broker Brandon Nimigon.

On Saturday and Sunday, presentations will also be given by an OPP safety officer



The Home Show welcomed visitors from all over the county in 2023, who explored over 20,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor displays at the AJ LaRue Arena and the Haliburton Curling Club. The Home and Cottage Show is sponsored and organized by members of the Haliburton Curling Club. /FILE

about cottage and water safety, and Paul MacInnes from the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners and Haliburton County Master Gardeners will speak about shoreline and lake health.

"We also have a celebrity attending; David Alexander Risk. He has three booths where he will be displaying his paintings, and he's going to be painting at the show," Glecoff said. "He's going to give us an original painting as the first draw prize in our raffle which is so exciting."

The painting will be on display in the Club Room of the Curling Club. A two night stay at Buttermilk Falls Resort and a Grey Owl paddle and \$100 gift card to Algonquin

Outfitters are also available to win.

Run by 150 Curling Club volunteers, the show is completely not-for-profit and helps support the curling club's community programs.

"The proceeds from the whole show support community curling. We have curling programs for public-school aged children to seniors, so it's a strong program that starts in grade school," Glecoff said.

"We've had great success. Jacob Dobson won the CCAA national college curling championship with his team for the second year in a row. He's ranked in the top 100 in the world."

Another curler that went through the local

program was Owen Nicholls who curled with Team Ontario in the Canada Winter Games for the past two years.

"Liam Little has also had great success and received silver in the national college curling championship with his team," Glecoff said.

Ticket prices are \$3 per day, and children under 12 attend for free..

A free Doggy Day Care will be available once again for four-legged friends to be taken care of while you tour the show.

Visit www.haliburtonhomeandcottage-show.com to learn more.

"With so many new additions this year, it promises to be a great show you won't want to miss," Glecoff said.



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Camelot makes us laugh a lot

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Grade 11/12 drama class spent the semester preparing for their production of *Camelot*, which was performed on Wednesday, May 15 and Thursday, May 16 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



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Green Burial Society 2024 annual meeting

Celebrating Progress Toward Year-Round Green Burial in Haliburton County

The Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) is welcoming anyone interested in making end-of-life choices as ecologically-sustainable as possible to attend a public celebration of the progress toward year-round green burial in Haliburton County.

That celebration will be the topic of the opening public presentation at the beginning of its hybrid in-person/virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, May 21, beginning at 7 p.m.

The in-person meeting will take place at the Haliburton United Church, 10 George St., Haliburton.

A question and answer period will follow on green/natural burial, its availability, and future prospects in Haliburton County and beyond. Everyone is welcome to attend whether or not they are HHGBS members.

Pre-registration is required and can be accomplished by visiting the Burial Society's website at www.haliburtongreenburial.ca.

For further information contact Terry Moore, President, Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS) at hgreenburialsociety@gmail.com or 705-306-9254.

Submitted

Request for Interested Parties

The Township of Minden Hills is looking for individuals and/or companies for the clean-up of properties as per Property Standards By-Law 11-61.



Interested Parties would be required to perform any or all of the following duties:

Clean-up or Removal of:

- Household garbage
- Miscellaneous debris
- Building materials
- Rubbish
- Brush/long grass/growth and noxious weeds (as defined by the Weed Controlled Act)
- Unlicensed/dismantled/wrecked/discarded vehicles/trailers/boats/machinery
- Dilapidated/collapsed, fully constructed or partially constructed structures.

Proof of Liability Insurance and WSIB are mandatory.

Please submit letters of interest and proof of Liability Insurance and WSIB to:

Paula Ingram, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer
Email: pingram@mindenhills.ca
Township of Minden Hills, Box 359, 7 Milne Street,
Minden, ON K0M 2K0.



Congrats to Jordanna Jennings, Addyson Parish, Fallon Thorn, and Erika Hoare for their results at the Kawartha Track and Field meet. /Submitted



Records fall at Kawartha Track and Field

Red Hawk athletes had an outstanding day at the Kawartha Track and Field meet, setting two new Kawartha records, four new school records and many Personal Bests.

Novice Girl Addyson Parish established a new Kawartha Triple Jump record with a jump of 10.49m, far surpassing the previous record of 10.03m set by Kathryn Ward of Fenelon Falls in 2006. Parish also took home the title in the 80m Hurdles, with a time of 13.66 and the Novice Girls Long Jump, with a best jump of 4.68m, just three centimeters shy of the Kawartha record.

Novice teammate Fynn Gooley also shone in the pits, taking home first-place ribbons in Boys Long Jump and Triple Jump. Gooley won the meet with a best jump of 5.81m, also just 5cm shy of the meet record and setting a new HHSS school record, bettering the mark of 5.77m set by Evan Backus at COSSA last year. Gooley already broke the school record for Novice Boys Triple Jump at the Bay of Quinte Invitational the previous week, setting the new standard of 11.60m, up from 11.49m set by Connor Baird in 2011. Gooley also went on to place second in the 100m, running a fast final in 12.19.

The Hawks success in the pits continued with Junior Girl Jordanna Jennings. Jennings unleashed a big leap to also break the Kawartha record with a huge jump of 4.97m. The previous mark was 4.88m set in 2015 by Erin Armstrong also from Fenelon Falls. This was also a new school record for Jennings, breaking the long-standing record of 4.84m set by Anna Tomlinson in 1993. Jennings also placed second in Junior Girls Triple Jump and sixth in the Discus.

Senior Girl Erika Hoare continued the record-breaking streak, bettering her own HHSS 2000m Steeplechase record with a

time of 8:04.94 to place third in this event. Hoare also set a new school record in the Senior Girls 3000m with a time of 11:55.16. The previous record of 11:59 was set by Stephanie Ratz in 2000. Hoare finished sixth in the highly competitive field in this event and ran seventh in the 400m Hurdles.

Kawartha champion titles were also earned by Brechin Johnston in the Junior Boys 1500m; Atticus Jorritsma in Novice Boys Discus; Hudson Horsley in Novice Boys Javelin; Graham Backus in Junior Boys Triple Jump and the Junior Boys 4x100m relay team of Graham and Evan Backus, Ben McMahon and Fynn Gooley.

Graham Backus rounded out his ribbon collection with two second-place finishes in the Junior Boys 100m and 300m hurdles; Evan Backus was second in 100m and third in both the 300m Hurdles and Long Jump. Jorritsma also added a second in Novice Boys Discus and fourth in Triple Jump to his tally.

Other top three finishes from Violet Humphries in Junior Girls 200m; Cheyenne Degeer in Senior Girls 200m; Haiden Bird in Senior Boys 800m; Deagan Davison in Novice Boys 300m Hurdles; Paige Hough in Senior Girls Discus; Ben McMahon in Junior Boys Shot Put and Brechin Johnston in Junior Boys 800m and the Senior Girls 4 x 100m Relay team of Hoare, Hough, Degeer and Lily Manning.

Hoare, Degeer and Manning teamed up with Novice Girl Jordyn Hurd to also run to third-place finish in the Open Girls 4x400m, with a strong combined time of 4:31.

The coaches commend all the athletes on their excellence and mental and physical perseverance in the face of challenges. They would like to recognize Grace Alder, who stepped in on very short notice to run a

strong leg on the Junior Girls 4x100m team; and Fallon Thorn for the amazing support of her teammates on the infield during very hot conditions!

The Red Hawks overall qualified 30 ath-

letes and six relay teams for COSSA next week, which returns to the track at Thomas A. Stewart in Peterborough.

Submitted by Karen Gervais

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Scottish Country Dancing

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Bring soft soled indoor shoes. RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com by Tuesday evening. \$5 per person, per evening. to host the new pollinator plants.

The Spirit of Patsy Cline

Starring Christina Hutt

When: Saturday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.
Where: The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 - Haliburton

As Patsy Cline, Christina brings the original era of the music to life. Engaging the audience with intimate reflections of lost love and those who have passed on, the haunting beauty is resurrected with the help of a five-piece band. Visit www.haliburtonfolk.com for more information.

Community Garden Workshop

When: May 26, 10 a.m.

Where: MCFC Community Gardens, Minden Fairgrounds

The County Master Gardeners will demonstrate transplanting techniques for those who have taken plots in the MCFC Community Gardens for 2024. Members of the community are also invited to attend and participate in a seedling exchange

**LGBTQ+ Seniors & Allies,
Sunday Friends Drop-In**

When: May 26, 1 - 3 p.m.

Where: Sirch Bistro, 49 Maple Ave. Haliburton

Join us at Sirch Bistro for another Sunday drop in - share a story, make a friend! Coffee and sweets provided, donations appreciated! Register with Zeffy on Facebook, Aging Together as Community or peterfquinton@gmail.com. Sponsored by ATAC, partnering with Minden Pride and SIRCH

The Power of One

When: May 28 at 7 p.m.

Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St.

You are invited to a discussion with Terry Moore, an environmental justice advocate who will be speaking about how we can each affect ecological change in Haliburton County. Preceded by Celtic music by Brian Sachs and friends. This is the third part of a series on "Making Our Communities Better Places." Open to all, no admission, light refreshments provided.

Dementia Care Conference

When: June 3, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where: Pinestone Resort, 4252 County Rd. 21 Affirming and Optimizing Life for Those Living With Dementia in Rural Canada. An exciting line-up of international and local presenters will share exciting and innovative approaches to rural care. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Lunch is provided, no cost to attend! Please register by May 22 on our ATAC Facebook page or email agingtogetherhc@gmail.com. Sponsored by McMaster University, Professor Sharon Kassalain's research, and Aging Together as Community.

**GET IT
online**
www.mindentimes.ca

Socking it to em'

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School girls soccer team is a force to be reckoned with on the home field. The team won their game against Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute 1-0 on Wednesday, May 15 /TIM YANO Special to the Times



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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 4





**THE TOWNSHIP OF
MINDEN HILLS**

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SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sales Rules

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on June 12, 2024, at the Township Office.

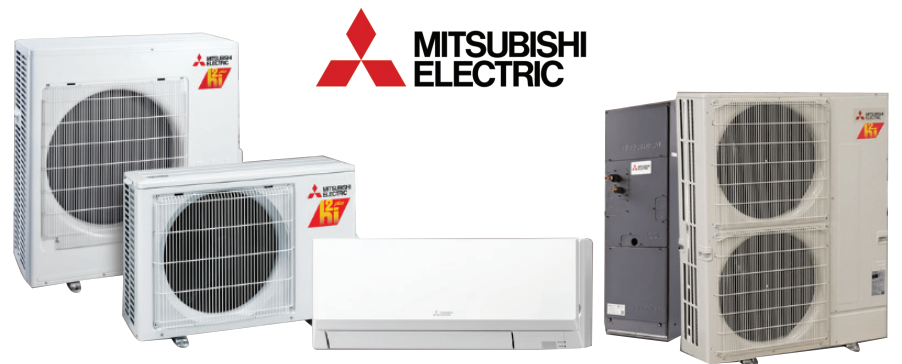
Legal Description:

- PT LT 4 CON A MINDEN AS IN H258825; MINDEN HILLS. BEING ALL OF PIN 39196-0090 (LT).
Roll # 46 16 033 000 40300 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 144 Bobcaygeon Rd, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: \$136,830.95
- PT LT 21 CON 10 MINDEN PT 2 19R3430; S/T EXECUTION 05-0000339, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 92-0001067, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 95-0000874, IF ENFORCEABLE; S/T EXECUTION 97-0000340, IF ENFORCEABLE; MINDEN HILLS. BEING ALL OF PIN 39191-0006 (LT).
Roll # 46 16 032 000 61500 0000 – Township of Minden Hills
Municipal Address: 1040 Soyers Lake Road, MINDEN, ON, K0M 2K0
Minimum Tender Amount: \$17,279.50

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001, and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act.

Further information about this matter is available online at www.mindenhill.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities.aspx, or you may contact:

Sherry Mulholland, Deputy Treasurer
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, MINDEN, Ontario, K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1260, Ext. 501
Email: smulholland@mindenhill.ca
Township website: www.mindenhill.ca



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jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

Thanks to all who apply. Only those considered for an interview will be contacted.



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Minden Times

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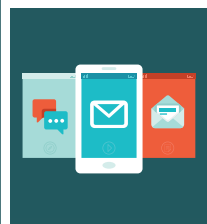
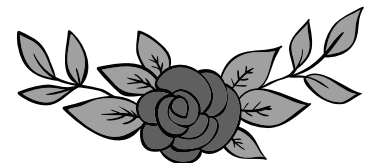
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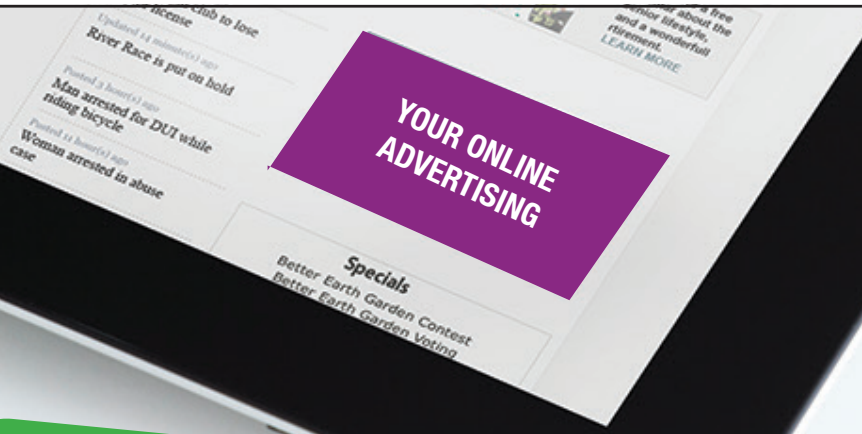


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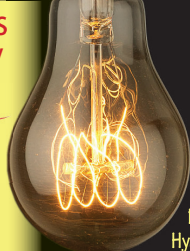
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Lutterworth taxes up just 4.4 per cent

Reserve set up for fire department

Despite a large commitment to a new fire department reserve fund, Lutterworth Township Council has managed to limit the municipal portion of this year's tax hike to 3.5 per cent.

At last Tuesday's meeting, council approved its 1988 budget. When combined with the education and county levies, the overall residential tax increase amounts to only 4.4 per cent.

One of the key items in this year's budget is the establishment of a reserve fund for setting up a future fire department in the municipality. By closing out a few other reserve funds, council was able to transfer a total of \$17,800 into the fire department fund. In addition, council passed a resolution which states that any surplus funds at the end of 1988 will be transferred into that fund.

The need to establish a fire department in Lutterworth Township was underscored recently when Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships decided to cancel its fire coverage agreement at the end of this year. Presently, the Minden Fire Department covers a small area of Lutterworth Township.

Lutterworth also purchases fire protection from two other neighbouring municipalities.

Earlier at last Tuesday's meeting, council was asked to respond to some

concerns from resident John Ellis in regard to the question of fire protection. He said he is worried that either municipal taxes will skyrocket to finance a fire department,

or fire insurance rates will increase because there will be no protection.

Reeve Bill Valentine responded that the Fire Marshall's Office has been encouraging the township to set up its own fire department for the past 10 to 15 years. He said council is not yet sure what the costs will be to the municipality, or whether it will actually be needed in the end.

(more on page 3)

Tashlin wins bronze medal at All-Ontario meet

Three athletes from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School have returned from the All-Ontario track and field competition with a sixth place finish or better. The competition was held this past weekend in Toronto and followed a number of local and regional meets to determine the top high school athletes in the province. HHSS was represented by six students, who competed in five events.

Among the top finishers were Leslie Tashlin who placed third in the senior girls 100 metre hurdles. Last year, in the same event, Leslie placed second. Her time this year was 15.2 seconds.

Ron Perrin captured a fourth place finish in the senior boys javelin throw. His distance was 53.22 metres.

Placing sixth in the junior boys discus was Marty Andrews. He gained the sixth place position with a toss of 40 metres.

High school track coaches said they were pleased with the performances of the competitors this year.

Ride returns this weekend

The annual Ride For Sight, the fund raising effort by motorcyclists from throughout Ontario for the eye disease Retinitis Pigmentosa, returns to Minden this weekend. A record number of participants is expected to attend this year and once again, the OPP Golden Helmets will lead the main group out of Toronto.

For a complete report on the Ride and a schedule for the weekend, see the latest edition of **This Week in the Highlands** included with today's newspaper.



Grace Coburn was honoured last week by the Hyland Crest Auxiliary with a special party to thank her for "20 years of caring". Grace was the Auxiliary president when the organization was formed and has continued to be active with the Auxiliary to this day. As part of the celebration at the home last week, many of the original executive members were in attendance.

Caterpillars at most destructive stage

On a calm, clear day in Haliburton County, the sound of a light rain beating against the forest floor can be heard. It's not rain, though. What is falling to the ground is the droppings of millions of tiny caterpillars as they chew their way through the leaves on a wide variety of host trees.

The chance of a late spring frost killing large

numbers of the Forest Tent Caterpillars that have invaded the county has passed. The caterpillars are gradually approaching their full size of about two inches and in another week or two, will be spinning cocoons in the base of uneaten leaves.

In the meantime though, they are at their most destructive stage and have begun migrating en masse

to new feeding grounds. Having eaten all the leaves off their original host trees, the caterpillars are moving to greener pastures. They travel in such great numbers that, in some areas, they completely cover the roadways they cross. The Ontario Provincial Police have gone so far as to issue a warning that driving conditions may become

slippery in areas.

In spite of what may appear to be serious damage to the trees, the Ministry of Natural Resources says the defoliation is only temporary. Gary Clements, a private lands extension technician with the ministry says the caterpillars are more of a nuisance than a serious threat to the trees.

Only those trees that are already experiencing some form of stress will be killed, he said. Most trees are capable of sprouting a new growth of leaves. However, the energy required to refoliate could be too much for older or diseased trees.

Sugar maple and oak trees are this insect's favourite and are normally the first to be stripped.

However, now that the caterpillars are migrating, they will be consuming leaves from other hardwood trees such as aspen, poplar, ash and birch.

The forest tent caterpillar is native to Ontario's forests and these infestations happen somewhere in Ontario every ten years, on the average. Pop-

(more on page 19)

Teeny Tiny Summit June 6 - Minden, ON



Teeny Tiny Summit



When: June 6, 2024, 9-3pm



Where: Minden Community Centre



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